

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 03300 091425Z

62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 USIA-15 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 091400Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3201

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 3300

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BR

SUBJECT: STATE TRADE PROMOTION OFFICES IN BRAZIL

REF: BRASILIA 2466

1. AS FOLLOW UP TO REFTEL, EMBOFF VISITED FONOFF TO OBTAIN COPIES OF CANADIAN NOTES INDICATED REFTEL PARA 4B. COUNSELOR FRASSINETTI PINTO, HEAD OF NORTH AMERICAN DESK IN FONOFF, TOO THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INDICATE THAT THE GOB NOW HAS SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH GRANTING SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO OFFICIALS OF SPECIFIC STATES THAT SET UP TRADE OFFICES IN BRAZIL.

2. AS FRASSINETTI PUT IT, HE WAS IN A BIND ON THE CANADIAN OFFICE. THE APPROVAL WAS GRANTED UNDER THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS NOT AS KEEN ON HAVING BRAZILIAN STATES ENTER INTO RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOREIGN NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES AND WISHES TO KEEP RELATIONS ON A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL. ACCORDINGLY, THE GOB IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING ITS POLICY IN THIS AREA, INCLUDING THE CANADIAN CASE. FRASSINETTI INDICATED THAT THE US COULD GO AHEAD AND SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR SIMILAR EXEMPTIONS BUT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE AND WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT, AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF GOB POLICY REVIEW, THEY WOULD BE APPROVED.

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 03300 091425Z

3. COMMENT: THE ABOVE COMMENTS INDICATE THAT THE SITUATION HAS DRASTICALLY CHANGED SINCE MR. SILVERMAN'S (DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, STATE OF ILLINOIS) EARLY APRIL MEETING WITH FRASSINETTI. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING THE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES SILVERMAN AND FRASSNETTI DISCUSSED DURING THAT VISIT. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT IN DEPARTMENT'S CONVERSATIONS WITH SILVERMAN THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT BE EMPHASIZED. EMBASSY HAS ALSO LEARNED VIA CONGEN SAO PAULO, THAT A THIRD STATE, VIRGINIA, IS CONSIDERING OPENING, ON THE SAME LINES AS GEORGIA AND ILLINOIS, AN OFFICE IN SAO PAULO. GIVEN THE SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM THE GOB SEEMS TO NOW HAVE IN GRANTING SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AS WELL AS THE INCREASING NUMBER OF STATES SEEKING TO ESTABLISH SUCH OFFICES, THE EMBASSY FEELS THAT THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS METHOD OF HANDLING SUCH SITUATIONS WOULD BE TO FOLLOW THE LINE PRESENTLY HELD BY GEORGIA AND NOT REQUEST ANY SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR SUCH OFFICES. IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH SUCH A POLICY, THE EMBASSY WILL, WITH THE FONOFF, WORK TO SET UP A MECHANISM ROUTINELY TO PROCESS SUCH REQUESTS ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL PARA 4C.

CRIMMINS

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